

ORIGINAL

VILLAGE OF MUNDELEIN

Marilyn Sindles, Mayor

Pamela Keeney, Clerk

440 East Hawley Street
Mundelein, IL 60060
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May 3, 2002

T01-0629

RECEIVED
MAY 7 2002

Illinois Commerce Commission
RAIL SAFETY SECTION

Mr. Bob Berry
Illinois Commerce Commission
Transportation Division/Railroad
527 E. Capitol Ave.
P. O. Box 19280
Springfield, IL 62794-9280

Compliance

Dear Bob:

Attached is the Automated Train Horn Activity Report for the month of April as required by the ICC order. Our perception is that the automated horns are working very well. The Village feels that the Automated Horn System can be improved by delaying activation of the horns until some time *after* the gates start to descend. We also request that the third horn at the Dunbar crossing be removed.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Flynn
Assistant Village Administrator

MAF/ch
Attachment

DOCKETED
MAY 7 2002



VILLAGE OF MUNDELEIN
AUTOMATED HORN SYSTEM MONTHLY REPORT
TO THE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

FOR REPORTING PERIOD APRIL 1, 2002 TO APRIL 30, 2002

OPERATIONS

Total of operational problems reported _____ 4 _____

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Total of citizen comments related to automated horn system _____ 8 _____

Positive _____ 2 _____
Negative _____ 6 _____

Total of citizen complaints related to train whistles _____ 0 _____

GATE VIOLATIONS

Number of tickets issued for crossing violations for this reporting period _____ 1 _____

Was enforcement of crossings conducted during
the reporting period? _____ No _____

Total hours _____ 0 _____

COMMENTS

Train whistles stopped officially on April 12, 2002.

The Village requests that the third horn at Dunbar be removed. This horn points southeast toward the left turn lane traffic on Route 45.

The Village also requests that activation of the automated horn be delayed until some time **after** the gates start to descend.

AUTOMATED TRAIN HORN ACTIVITY REPORT

April 1, 2002

1.	Comment Anne Johnson & Cathy Caplin Corner Health Food Store 502 N. Seymour	Annoying/too stressful. Too many blasts. Too long.
2.	Comment Mike Boyrk 868 Glenview	Worse than before
3.	Operational Problem Dick Raub	Dick Raub called and reported that on 3/31/02 at 4:30 p.m. he observed that the Allanson Road automated horn system did not sound the horn. The confirmation signal was off, indicating that the trains should sound the whistle.

April 3, 2002

1.	Operational Problem Rob Aronson	Reported that RCL has identified an "anomaly" in the Wisconsin Central system at Allanson Road that is causing the AHS horns to sound longer than necessary. RCL is working with the Wisconsin Central signal controller to remedy the problem.
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April 4, 2002

1.	Crossing Violation Mundelein Police Dept.	Maple Street (Rt. 176) at 9:57 a.m.
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April 8, 2002

1.	Comment Don Morrison Northpoint Technologies Park St. 566-7999 (x 208)	AHS far worse than the train horns. Length of time of the AHS is really disturbing.
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April 10, 2002

1.	Operational Problem Ralph Durham 1289 Banbury 847-566-8227 847-404-0123 (cell)	AHS starts too soon. Should not start once gate is down. Confirmation signal not working.
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April 12, 2002

1.	Comment Leslie Molnar	AHS horns are "obnoxious and grating." (See attached)
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AUTOMATED TRAIN HORN ACTIVITY REPORT

April 14, 2002

1.	Obstruction of a Highway Mundelein Police Dept.	Ticket issues to Canadian National for obstruction of highway grade crossing on Allanson Road. AHS system worked properly. The AHS did not sound when train was in the intersection.
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April 18, 2002

1.	Comment Vivian Lampel 225 Edgemont 847-566-1978	The train horns are a big improvement.
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April 22, 2002

1.	Comment Nate Hamm 740 Greenwood Ave.	The AHS is worse than the trains. Now they hear everything (including Metra trains) much longer than ever before.
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April 23, 2002

1.	Operational Problem Dick Raub Northwestern University	Dick Raub reported that he observed the confirmation signal at Allanson was not working on Sunday, April 21, 2002, at 1:45 p.m. This caused the train to sound its horn.
2.	Comment Stanley Rys Univ. of St. Mary's of the Lake	Complained about noise from the AHS at the seminary. (See attached letter)

April 29, 2002

1.	Comment Voice Mail Resident of Norton Ave.	The AHS is great!
2.	Obstruction of a Highway Mundelein Police Dept.	Ticket issues to Canadian National for obstruction of highway grade crossing on Allanson Road. AHS system worked properly. The AHS did not sound when train was in the intersection.

Michael Flynn

From: Leslie Molnar [leslie@bigmoss.com]
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2002 8:49 AM
To: Michael Flynn
Subject: Re: Automated Horns

Dear Mike,

Thanks for replying to my concerns re: the automated horns last month. I appreciate your getting back to me so quickly.

I have been trying to get used to them, but the thing is...I still hate them. I know the trains are still blowing their horns, too, but that doesn't bother me. In fact, I've always rather liked the sound of a train's whistles and horns...it sounds corny, I guess, but I like the feeling of "small town America" that the sound of a train elicits. The automated horns are so obnoxious and grating, so (sorry for the new-age description:) inorganic. When I hear them I feel like a psychiatric prison is sounding the mental-patient-on-the-loose alarm.

It seems to me that the Village Board have been trying really hard to improve the downtown area and to encourage more commerce, foot traffic, etc. I think the automated horns are detrimental to that end. I remember evenings sitting outside at the new Park Street restaurant last summer and neither the trains nor their horns bothered me. But I would not sit outside there this summer, awaiting the satanic blast of noise emitting from the automated horns.

I know that people who live closer to the tracks, as I do, are more bothered by the new horns than residents who live further away, but it seems to me that if a person lives far enough away not to be bothered by the new horns, he could not have been too bothered by the old ones...which at least had a charm about them that automation cannot match.

Thank you for taking the time to read my complaint. Would you mind sending me the email addresses of the mayor and the Village Board? I'd like to forward my message to them as well. Perhaps others feel as I do.

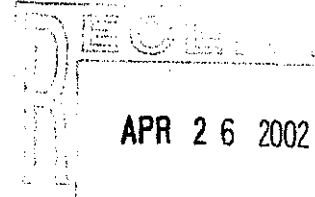
Sincerely,
Leslie Molnar
301 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

> From: Michael Flynn <mflynn@mundelein.org>
> Date: Thu, 21 Mar 2002 12:31:34 -0600
> To: "'leslie@bigmoss.com'" <leslie@bigmoss.com>
> Subject: Automated Horns
>
> Concerns regarding the Automated Horns can be directed to me: Mike Flynn,
> Assistant Village Administrator; or, if you prefer you can send comments to
> the Mayor and Village Board, or directly to the Illinois Commerce
> Commission.
>
> We are tabulating all comments and will be filing monthly reports with the
> ICC.
>
> At the present time both the automated horns and the train horns are being
> blown. This will end in a week or so. I hope that the situation will
> improve for you at that time. I will note your concerns. Please call me if
> you would like to discuss this problem in more detail.
>
> Mike Flynn
> 847-566-5209



1000 EAST MAPLE AVENUE • MUNDELEIN, IL 60060-1174 • WWW.USML.EDU

April 25, 2002



TO: Fr. John Canary
Fr. Thomas Baima

FROM: Stan Rys

SUBJECT: Automated Train Horns

cc: ✓ Mr. Michael Flynn
Mr. Stef Bankember

Several weeks ago, new automated warning horns were activated at all Mundelein railroad crossings, including Dunbar Road. This has resulted in numerous complaints from our residents about the noise created.

I have had a conversation with Mr. Mike Flynn, the assistant administrator for the Village of Mundelein. He has advised me that the new horns are a requirement of the Illinois Commerce Commission. Automated horns at intersections must be heard at a level of 92db, 100 feet from the centerline of the railroad track.

Trains going through these intersections are no longer required to sound their horns. Some, however, still do resulting in a double dose of noise.

The Dunbar intersection, due to its unique configuration, has 3 horns (most intersections have 2). One of the horns is directed across Rt. 45 to alert drivers in the turning lane of an approaching train. This particular horn is, most likely, the largest contributor to noise pollution on campus.

Mr. Flynn, at my request, is exploring 3 options:

1. to adjust the direction of the offending horn
2. reduce the duration of the horn.
- OR 3. to shut it off completely.

This process may take a month or more to accomplish. I will continue to communicate with the City of Mundelein until some resolution has been reached.